

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested in view of the following observations.

1. In the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. Claim 13 is amended accordingly and is now dependent from claim 12. Entry of the amendment to claim 1 is kindly requested.

2. Election

The applicant elects Group I for further prosecution on the merits. Group I includes claims 1-19 and 32-36.

The applicant hereby reserves all rights to the non-elected subject matter of Groups II and III (i.e., Claims 23-31 and 37).

3. Traversal and reconsideration of the restriction requirement

The restriction requirement is traversed and reconsideration is requested thereof in view of the amendment to claim 1.

The Action declares that while claim 1 is considered generic, restriction of the claims is proper because claim 1 is not considered patentable over U.S. patent 4,455,039 (*Weitzen*). Accordingly, the Action alleges that the patentability of the application is based on the special features of the dependent claims.

Amended claim 1 recites the feature, in combination with other recited features, of a coding extending over a predominant part of a surface of the value document. The coding of amended claim 1 is not taught by *Weitzen*.

*Weitzen* discloses a coating which extends over a limited area of the substrate surface which itself constitutes a code, as disclosed in its abstract. Because *Weitzen* discloses a limited extension of the coding over the surface, it cannot teach a coding which extends over a predominant part of a surface of a value document.

From these observations, it is clear that amended claim 1 is patentable over *Weitzen*. Accordingly, since claim 1 is generic to all groups, and further because it is patentable over *Weitzen*, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

4. Information Disclosure Statement

Another Information Disclosure Statement is submitted currently herewith.

5. Conclusion

As a result of the election and amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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